

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving (304), at a bi-directional communications device (130), an application level gateway (ALG) file (200);

comparing (308, 310, 314, 320, 326, 332, 336) at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device; and

storing (340)-said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

- 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: rejecting (350) said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.
- 3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header format version (308) of said ALG file.
- 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a file size (310) of said ALG file.
- 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header CRC value (314) of said ALG file.
- 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a header format version of said ALG file.
- 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a body CRC value (320)-of said ALG file.



- 8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises an authentication signature (326) of said ALG file.
- 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a hardware family version (332) of said ALG file.
- 10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one compatibility parameter comprises a software family version (336) of said ALG file.
- 11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said bidirectional communications device comprises a cable modem (130).
- 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

periodically polling a service provider (110) to determine if at least one of a new and updated ALG file is available;

sending a request for an available ALG file; and receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

receiving a configuration file from said service provider, said configuration file identifying at least one of new and updated ALG files;

sending a request for an available ALG files; and receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a firewall program (150)-utilizes said ALG files to control data traffic.



- 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ALG file (200) has appended thereto a header portion (214) comprising said compatibility parameters selected from the group comprising a header format version (216), a header size (218), a header expected CRC (220), an authentication signature (222), a body size (224), a body expected CRC (226), compatible hardware version family (228), and compatible software version family (230).
- 16. (currently amended) Apparatus, comprising:
 means for receiving, at a bi-directional communications device (130), an application level gateway (ALG)-file (200);

means for comparing at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device; and

means for storing (136, 140) said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

- 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
 means for rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications
 device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said at least one compatibility
 parameter.
- 18. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said bidirectional communications device comprises a cable modem (130).
- 19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said ALG file has appended thereto a header portion (214) comprising said compatibility parameters selected from the group comprising a header format version (216), a header size (218), a header expected CRC (220), an authentication signature (222), a body size (224), a body expected CRC (226), compatible hardware version family (228), and compatible software version family (230).